AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~performed by a computer program~~ to register a device with a remote computer, the method comprising:

communicating with the remote computer each time the device powers-up; and

making a determination, each time the device powers-up, as to whether to proceed with registration based on communication with the remote computer, wherein the determination is made based on correctness of registration information stored on the remote computer for the device and currency of the registration information;

wherein, if the determination is not to proceed with registration, the method further comprises aborting registration for a current power-up of the device;

wherein, if the determination is to proceed with registration, for the current power-up of the device the method further comprises:

obtaining feature information stored for the device, the feature information comprising information that is specific to an instance of the device, the feature information comprising an address of the remote computer and a physical location of the device, the address comprising a known address that is stored prior to installation of the device in a system; and

registering the device with the remote computer by transmitting the

feature information to the remote computer at the known address using

eXtensible Markup Language (XML) a self-describing computer language; and

wherein the method is performed automatically when the computer program runs, and

wherein the method does not require without manual intervention.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the known address

corresponds to a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the known address

corresponds to a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) address.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information comprises a

device type and a device instance.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the device type comprises a

model number of the device and the device instance comprises a serial number of the device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the remote computer

comprises a database for storing the feature information.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[7]], wherein the remote computer resides on a distributed computing network and the feature information is transmitted to the remote computer via the distributed computing network.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the distributed computing network comprises the Internet.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the device is connected to the distributed computing network via a direct network connection.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the device is connected to the distributed computing network via a dial-up network connection.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the device is connected to the distributed computing network via a wireless network connection.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the device stores embedded software which controls the device, the embedded software having a first version identifier.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the database stores a software update having a second version identifier, the software update comprising a different version of the embedded software.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising comparing the first version identifier to the second version identifier to determine if the embedded software needs to be updated.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising updating the embedded software using the software update if it is determined that the embedded software needs to be updated.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the <u>feature information comprises</u> ~~the device stores~~ system information concerning ~~location,~~ ownership[[,]] ~~or~~ and configuration of the device.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising configuring the system information via a system information interface.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the device comprises a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) device web server and the system information interface

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comprises a software application residing on the device web server, and the method further

comprises:

editing the system information by accessing the system information interface via a

remote web client.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

transmitting the system information to the remote computer using <u>XML</u> ~~the self-~~

~~describing computer language~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, ~~further comprising~~ <u>wherein making</u>

<u>the determination comprises</u> comparing system information on the remote computer to system

information on the device to determine if the database on the remote computer needs to be

updated with the system information on the device.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising updating system

information in the database with the system information from the device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the device comprises a

device web client and the remote computer comprises a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

remote web server.

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25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the remote computer comprises application logic to interface the remote web server and the database.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the device web client transmits the feature information from the device to the remote web server, and the application logic transmits the feature information from the remote web server to the database.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the device comprises a device mail client and the remote computer comprises a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) remote mail server.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the remote computer comprises application logic to interface the remote mail server and the database.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the device mail client transmits the feature information from the device to the remote mail server, and the application logic transmits the feature information from the remote mail server to the database.

30. (Currently Amended) One or more machine-readable media that store instructions that are executed to register a device with a remote computer, the instructions to:

communicate with the remote computer each time the device powers-up; and

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make a determination, each time the device powers-up, as to whether to proceed with registration based on communication with the remote computer, wherein the determination is made based on correctness of registration information stored on the remote computer for the device and currency of the registration information;

if the determination is not to proceed with registration, to abort registration for a current power-up of the device; and

if the determination is to proceed with registration, to perform the following actions for the current power-up of the device:

obtain feature information stored for the device, the feature information comprising information that is specific to an instance of the device, the feature information comprising an address of the remote computer and a physical location of the device, the address comprising a known address that is stored prior to installation of the device in a system; and

register the device with the remote computer by transmitting the feature information to the remote computer at the known address using eXtensible Markup Language (XML) a self-describing computer language;

wherein obtaining and registering are performed automatically when the instructions are executed and obtaining and registering do not require without manual intervention.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 30, wherein the known address corresponds to a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

33. (Previously Presented) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 30, wherein the known address corresponds to a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) address.

34. (Previously Presented) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 30, wherein the feature information comprises a device type and a device instance.

35 to 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 30, wherein the ~~device stores~~ feature information comprises system information concerning ~~location,~~ ownership[[, or]] and configuration of the device.

43. (Previously Presented) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 42, further comprising instructions that cause the device to receive the system information.

44. (Currently Amended) The one or more machine-readable media of claim 43, further comprising instructions to:

transmit the system information to the remote computer using <u>XML</u> ~~the self-describing computer language~~.

45 to 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A device that registers with a remote computer, the device comprising[[:]] a processing device that executes instructions to:

<u>communicate with the remote computer each time the device powers-up; and</u>

<u>make a determination, each time the device powers-up, as to whether to proceed with registration based on communication with the remote computer, wherein the determination is made based on correctness of registration information stored on the remote computer for the device and currency of the registration information;</u>

<u>if the determination is not to proceed with registration, to abort registration for a current power-up of the device; and</u>

<u>if the determination is to proceed with registration, to perform the following actions for the current power-up of the device:</u>

obtain feature information stored for the device, the feature information comprising information that is specific to an instance of the device, the feature information comprising an address of the remote computer <u>and a physical location of the remote computer</u>, the address comprising a known address that is stored prior to installation of the device in a system; and

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register the device with the remote computer by transmitting the feature

information to a remote computer at the known address using eXtensible Markup

Language (XML) ~~a self-describing computer language~~;

wherein obtaining and registering are performed automatically when the instructions are

executed by the processor ~~and do not require~~ without manual intervention.

50 to 53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein the known address

corresponds to a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

55. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein the known address

corresponds to a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) address.

56. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 49, wherein the information comprises a

device type and a device instance.

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57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 56, wherein the device type comprises a model number of the device and the device instance comprises a serial number of the device.

58. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 49, wherein the ~~device stores~~ feature information comprises system information concerning ~~location,~~ ownership[[, or]] and configuration of the device.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 58, wherein the processing device executes instructions to receive the system information.

60. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 59, wherein the processing device executes instructions to:

transmit the system information to the remote computer using XML ~~the self-describing computer language~~.